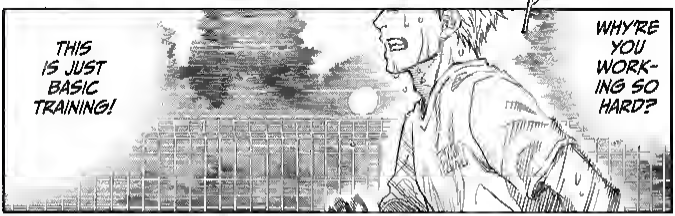
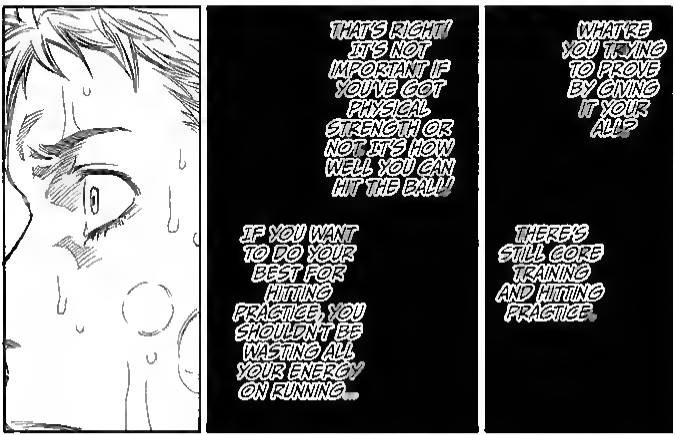
Round 13: Contact

HAAH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
DAMMIT!


HAAH!
THIS IS JUST BASIC TRAINING!
WHY'RE YOU WORK-ING SO HARD?


THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT IMPORTANT IF YOU'VE GOT PHYSICAL STRENGTH OR NOT. IT'S HOW WELL YOU CAN HIT THE BALL!
IF YOU WANT TO DO YOUR BEST FOR HITTING PRACTICE, YOU SHOULDN'T BE WASTING ALL YOUR ENERGY ON RUNNING...
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PROVE BY GIVING IT YOUR ALL?
THERE'S STILL CORE TRAINING AND HITTING PRACTICE.

SINCE JOINING AND DECIDING THAT I WANT TO PLAY GOLF, I'VE BEEN DOING IT IN EARNEST
AND SO I'VE BEEN RUNNING IN EARNEST.

HUH? DONE SO SOON?
WELL, I'VE MORE OR LESS GOT IT DOWN
IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO QUIT BEFORE IT BECOMES A DRAG
NICE SHOT! I CAN TELL YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE FOURTH GRADE!
YOU'RE THE BEST AMONG ALL THE FIRST-YEARS!

...DURING ALL MY [illegible] THIS?
HAVE I...
...EVER PLAYED IN EARNEST...

DUN

AMAZING! HE REALLY...
WAAH!

...AND TOOK FIRST PLACE!
YOU'RE KID~DING!
HE BEAT KAZAMA ...

HAAH!
HAH!
...!

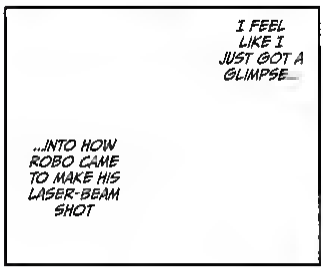
SPLAT
EEEK! SORRY!!

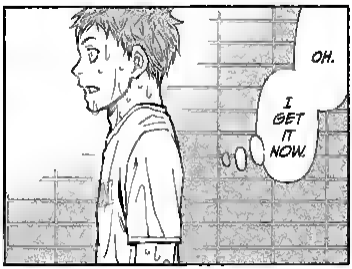
YOU'RE INCREDIBLE!
ROBO

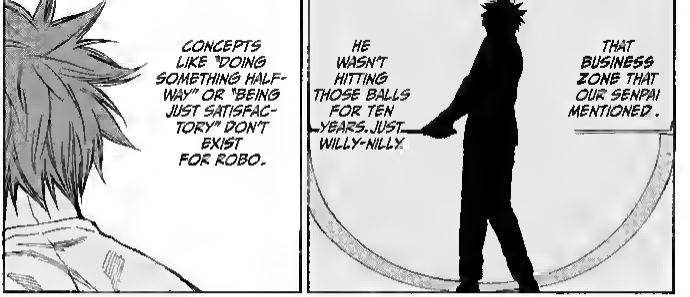
LURCH
A PERSONAL BEST AND FIRST PLACE!
YOU DID IT!
AH
SMACK

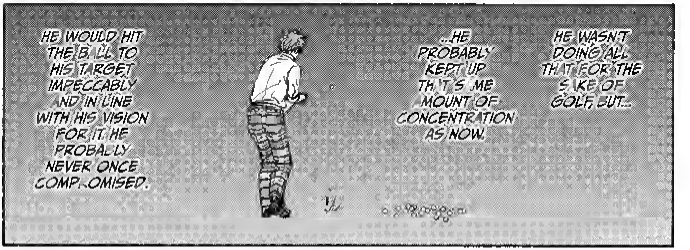
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COLLAPSE AFTER GETTING FIRST PLACE, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?
THERE'S STILL CORE TRAINING AFTER THIS
YOU THINK YOU CAN REST NOW?
DON'T BE STUPID.
YOU CAN ONLY LIFT YOUR BUTT!
THAT IS NOT MY INTENTION
WRIGL
7"7"..
THAT'S OKAY
...?
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS PACING YOURSELF, YOU KNOW
SO WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SERIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS RUNNING?
WHY DO YOU DO IT?

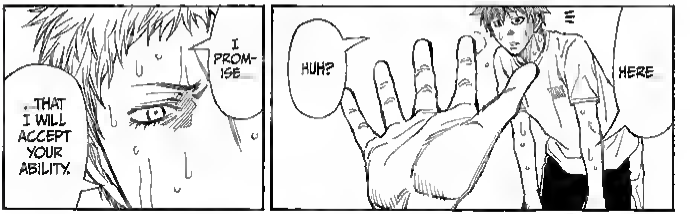
WHEN YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SOME-THING...
...HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO REGULATE HOW SERIOUS YOU GET?


I FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A GLIMPSE
...INTO HOW ROBO CAME TO MAKE HIS LASER-BEAM SHOT


OH.
I GET IT NOW.

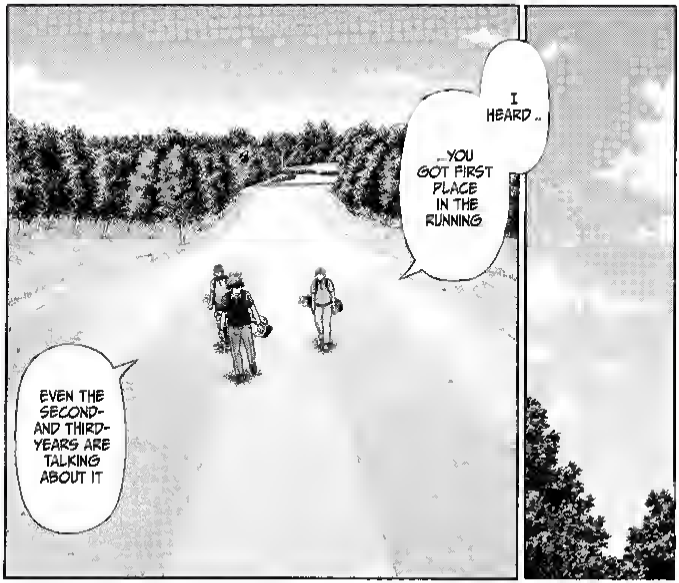

CONCEPTS LIKE "DOING SOMETHING HALF-WAY" OR "BEING JUST SATISFAC-TORY" DON'T EXIST FOR ROBO.
HE WASN'T HITTING THOSE BALLS FOR TEN YEARS. JUST WILLY-NILLY.
THAT BUSINESS ZONE THAT OUR SENPAI MENTIONED.


HE WOULD HIT THE BALL TO HIS TARGET IMPECCABLY AND IN LINE WITH HIS VISION FOR IT. HE PROBABLY NEVER ONCE COMPROMISED.
...HE PROBABLY KEPT UP THAT SAME MOUNT OF CONCENTRATION AS NOW.
HE WASN'T DOING ALL THAT FOR THE SAKE OF GOLF, BUT...


I PROM-ISE
...THAT I WILL ACCEPT YOUR ABILITY.
HUH?
HERE

OUR REGULARS AREN'T SO EASY THAT THEY'D LET A GUY LIKE YOU SUDDENLY JOIN THEIR RANKS.
BUT DON'T THINK THAT YOU'VE WON FROM THIS ALONE
IT ALSO DIDN'T GUARANTEE THAT I WOULDN'T
BUT YOU SAID THAT GETTING FIRST PLACE WOULDN'T GUARANTEE YOU'D ACCEPT ME
?

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN THEM, THEN GO AHEAD AND DO IT.
WOOSH

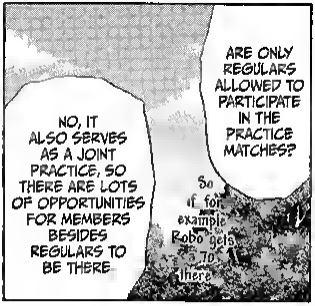


*See chapter 1. It's a model used by advanced players.

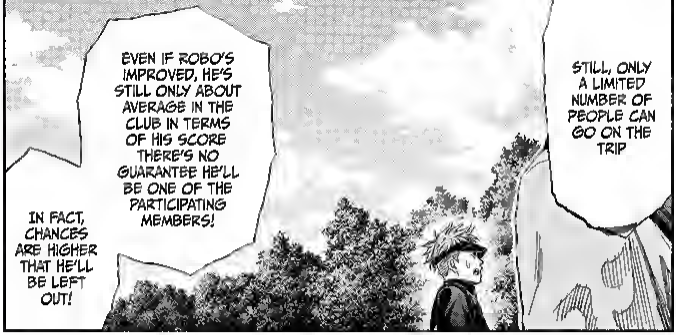
YOU'VE IMPROVED TOO, TOMOYA.
GIVING THAT *MUSCLE-BACK IRON TO ROBO...
...AND OPTING TO GO WITH AN EASIER MODEL WAS THE RIGHT DECISION

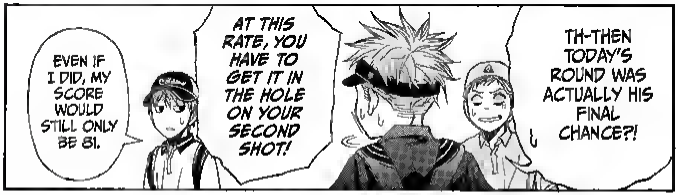
83.
ROBO, IF YOU GET PAR ON THIS LAST HOLE, WHAT'LL YOUR TOTAL BE?
WOW!
SERIOUSLY?!
THEY'RE ALL OLD BESIDES THAT IRON THOUGH.
They're my dads.
Now I don't have to lend you mine anymore
I've never been complimented before!
THANK YOU MUCH!
ROBO'S GOT HIS OWN SET TOO!
AND HE'S ALREADY PERFECTED HIS BASIC SWINGS.
TO BE HONEST... HE'S REALLY SOMETHING
HE'S PLAYED LESS THAN TEN FULL ROUNDS SINCE HE'S BEEN PRACTICING EVERY WEEKEND
THAT MUST BE WHY HE'S SUDDENLY MASTERED THE BASIC SHOTS FOR MOST SITUATIONS .. INCLUDING INCLINES AND BUNKERS.
ALL RIGHT
NEXT WEEK'S PRACTICE ROUND IS YOUR FINAL CHANCE JUST BEFORE THE TRAINING CAMP
YOU HAVE TO GET A 70 THERE~
I CAN'T DENY THAT HE STILL LACKS EXPERIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO GAUGING THE WIND AND PUTTING, BUT...
HE REALLY DOES HAVE A CHANCE TO GET 70!

OH CRAP !!!!
ビクッ!!
TWCH
...?!


ARE ONLY REGULARS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE MATCHES?
So if, for example Robo gets a TO there
NO, IT ALSO SERVES AS A JOINT PRACTICE, SO THERE ARE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS BESIDES REGULARS TO BE THERE

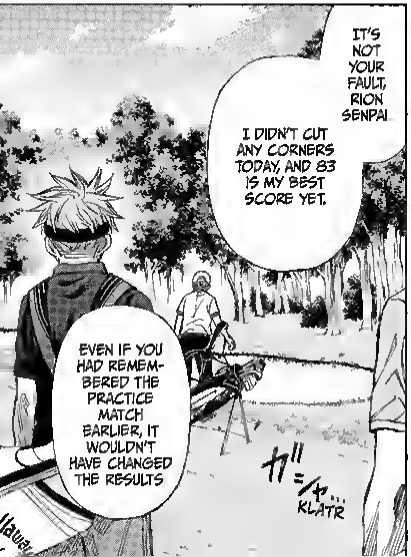
NEXT WEEK IS THE PRACTICE MATCH! I FORGOT!!
HUH ?!
AH!!


STILL, ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN GO ON THE TRIP
EVEN IF ROBO'S IMPROVED, HE'S STILL ONLY ABOUT AVERAGE IN THE CLUB IN TERMS OF HIS SCORE THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'LL BE ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS!
IN FACT, CHANCES ARE HIGHER THAT HE'LL BE LEFT OUT!


TH-THEN TODAY'S ROUND WAS ACTUALLY HIS FINAL CHANCE?!
AT THIS RATE, YOU HAVE TO GET IT IN THE HOLE ON YOUR SECOND SHOT!
EVEN IF I DID, MY SCORE WOULD STILL ONLY BE 81.

NOW WE'RE SCREWED.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS
MY BAD

...


IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, RION SENPAI.
I DIDN'T CUT ANY CORNERS TODAY, AND 83 IS MY BEST SCORE YET.
EVEN IF YOU HAD REMEMBERED THE PRACTICE MATCH EARLIER, IT WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED THE RESULTS
KLATR

HM.
NICE SHOT !!
And all the way from a fairway bunker
OOH!
I JUST HAVE TO KEEP DOING MY BEST.
IF I'VE DONE ALL I CAN AND IT'S STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, THEN THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO.
VROOM

VRM
ホリ
ジェントルマン！！
ヤバい車だ
25M

YEAH!
SWF
SWF
GOOD WORK TODAY
PING
POO
HOW'D IT GO?
HIIRAGI-SAN?
OKAY, I GUESS
I WAS 1-OVER PAR
ZSH

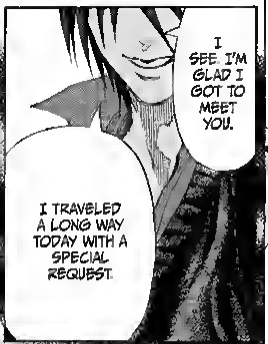
IT'S YOU...!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE ...?

MUR
ワイ
ワイ
MUR
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HM?

YES.
...?

...!
A RED-HEADED FIRST-YEAR...
ARE YOU ROBATO HATOHARA-KUN?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN, SHIN-SAN...


I SEE. I'M GLAD I GOT TO MEET YOU.
I TRAVELED A LONG WAY TODAY WITH A SPECIAL REQUEST.

HOLD ON A SEC. THAT'S...
...?!

AT THE NEXT PRACTICE MATCH...
THE EMPEROR, KYOSUKE SUZAKU?!!
...I WANT TO PLAY AGAINST YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED...